

Message Text

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P R 172115Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

S E C R E T STATE 115906

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MBFR, NATO, PO, UK

SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: DISCUSSION WITH UK EMBASSY OFFICER

1. UK EMBASSY COUNSELOR WILBERFORCE CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN MAY 16 TO DISCUSS CSCE (SEPTTEL); MBFR, NATO SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE, AND PORTUGAL.

2. MBFR. WILBERFORCE EXPRESSED LONDON'S CONCERN ABOUT PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION IN NATO DISCUSSIONS OF OPTION III, BUT WISHED TO POINT OUT THAT UK CONCERN CENTERS NOT ON PROTECTING CONTENT OF OPTION III BUT ON PRESERVING CONFIDENTIALITY OF NATO DISCUSSIONS ON EQUIPMENT CONSTRAINTS, CEILINGS, FORCE PLANS, MILITARY ANALYSES, AND TACTICS WITH THE EAST. THE

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UK SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IS TO REMAND DETAILED

DISCUSSION OF OPTION III TO NATO MBFR WORKING GROUP,
WHERE THE PORTUGUESE HAVE NOT BOTHERED TO BE
REPRESENTED.

3. NATO SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE. WILBERFORCE RECALLED
RECENT DISCUSSION BY EMBASSY LONDON AND FCO
(LONDON 7349), AND EMPHASIZED BRITISH STRONGLY
CONCUR IN OUR VIEW THAT IS DRAFT COMMUNIQUE IS MUCH

BETTER THAN BELGIAN PRODUCT. HE NOTED FCO
CHARACTERIZATION OF BELGIAN DRAFT AS "WET AND
PLATITUDINOUS". WILBERFORCE NOTED LONDON'S
DESIRE TO CONCENTRATE EFFORT TO DEVELOP SUMMIT
COMMUNIQUE DRAWING ON ASPECTS OF BOTH IS AND BELGIAN
DRAFTS AT NATO HQ. HE SAID LONDON HAD TURNED DOWN
AMBASSADOR RAMSBOTHAM'S SUGGESTION THAT UK JOIN
US IN CANVASSING NATO CAPITALS TO PROMOTE IS
COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE (STATE 114052). LOWENSTEIN
EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR UK HELP IN PRODUCING A
SOLID DECLARATION.

4. ON PORTUGAL, UK DELEGATION AT NATO WISHED TO
APPRISE DEPARTMENT OF ITS VIEW THAT WHILE THERE IS
MUCH NAIVETE AMONG PORTUGUESE LEADERS, BRITISH
THINK SOME OF THEM ARE NOT RPT NOT SO SET IN THEIR
VIEWS THAT THEY ARE IMMUNE TO OUTSIDE THINKING.
BRITISH FIRST MADE THIS OBSERVATION WHEN AZEVEDO
PARTICIPATED IN DECEMBER 1974 NATO MINISTERIAL
DISCUSSIONS. UK BELIEVES THAT EVEN PRIME MINISTER
GONCALVES, DURING UPCOMING NATO SUMMIT TALKS,
MAY PROVE OPEN TO REASON.

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